

SAFETY ALERT



Safety Alert 405
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Contact: Jason Mathews
Phone: (504) 731-1496

Blind Shear Rams Damaged after Inadvertently Closing on a Tool String

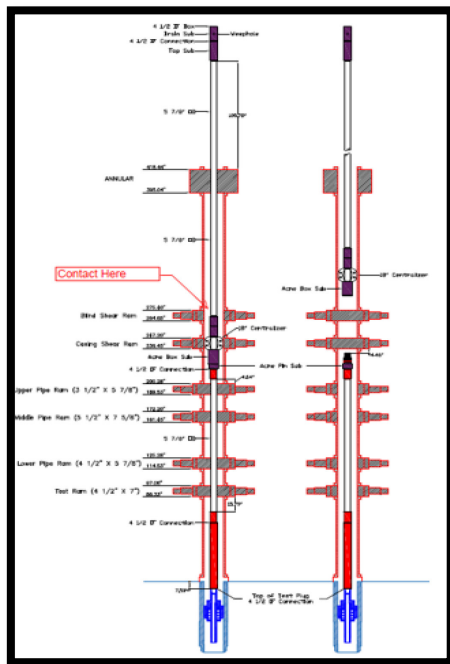


Figure 1. Actual Blind Shear Ram test setup (left) and planned blind shear ram test setup (right)



Figure 2. Damage to test tool assembly from BSR

In June 2020, an operator, along with its drilling contractor, were conducting completion operations on a well in the Gulf of Mexico when the blind shear rams (BSRs) were damaged. As part of routine operations and regulatory compliance, a test of the BSRs was performed in which a blowout preventer (BOP) test tool was run. During this test, the drill pipe was inadvertently backed off at a connection above the test assembly as the drill pipe was rotated to release the test tool. When the BSRs were closed, the gallon count showed an abnormality, indicating an object was in its path. Upon recovery of the object, damage was found on the test tool as a result of an impact by the BSRs.

The incident should have been reported to BSEE's district office immediately after the BSR test, as required by [30 CFR 250.738\(i\)](#), but operations continued. Days later, the operator notified BSEE of the incident and said that the test was not reported earlier because the BSRs did not shear the pipe.



Figure 3. Damage to Blind Shear Ram after closing on the test tool

Therefore, BSEE recommends that Operators consider the following:

- Report all tests of BSRs to BSEE immediately when it impacts an object or fails to close completely on activation;
- In the event of a Blind Shear closure command that results in the Ram Block Blades contacting shearables and/or non-shearables, immediately plan to pull the stack in order to inspect the ram block and associated blades and fasteners;
- Review and confirm all conditions prior to testing any components of the BOP, and consider a checklist to organize the verification of parameters;
- Note an incident as a significant event in a Well Activity Report (WAR) submitted to BSEE if the BSR impacts an object at any time; and,
- Confirm all independent, third-party requirements under [30 CFR § 250.732](#) are met after the initial closing of a BSR, including, but not limited to, 250.732 (a)(1)(i).

--BSEE--

A **Safety Alert** is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Category: Equipment